

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00350 101007Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 100839Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9183

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0350

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XC, JA, CH

SUBJECT: PRC INTEREST IN TANAKA'S SE ASIAN TOUR

1. NETHERLANDS EMBASSY MINISTER I. VERKADE TOLD
EMBOFF THAT PRC AMBASSADOR CHEN CHU AND
COUNSELLOR MI KUO-CHUN HAVE IN RECENT

DAYS DISPLAYED INTENSE INTEREST WITH WEST EUROPEANS IN
TANAKA'S TRIP TO SE ASIA. AMBASSADOR CHEN
CORNERED VERKADE AT A COCKTAIL PARTY AND PROBED
FOR VIEWS ON WHY TANAKA WENT TO SE ASIA, WHY HE
WENT ONLY TO ASEAN COUNTRIES, WHY HE TOOK ALONG
SUCH A LARGE ENTOURAGE, ETC. OTHER WEST EUROPEANS,
INCLUDING (BY MISTAKE) SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR
TSEKHONYA (WHO TOLD VERKADE HE, TSEKHONYA,
WAS THE RIGHT MAN TO ASK) HAVE ALSO BEEN BESIEGED
BY THE CHINESE WITH SIMILAR QUESTIONS. CHINESE
HAVE NOT ALLUDED TO ANY CHINESE ANGLE IN THEIR
QUESTIONING AND EUROPEANS ARE PUZZLED. VERKADE
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 00350 101007Z

SAID CHEN CONCLUDED REMARKS TO HIM ADVISING

QTE NETHERLANDS SHOULD BUILD SIZEABLE PETROLEUM
STORAGE TANKS TO BE PREPARED FOR SOVIET ATTACKS
ON EUROPE END QTE.

2. COMMENT: WE WOULD SUSPECT THAT THE CHINESE ARE
QUESTIONING JAPAN'S LONG-TERM INTENTIONS IN SE ASIA
AND THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED SPECIFICALLY IN
WHETHER JAPAN MAY BE TRYING TO STRENGTHEN TIES
WITH ASEAN POSSIBLY WITH EVENTUAL SECURITY
ARRANGEMENTS IN MIND. MAJOR QUESTION IN CHINESE
THOUGHTS IS OBVIOUSLY WHO WILL FILL ANY VACUUM
CREATED BY DEPARTURE OF US FROM SE ASIA.
SHOESMITH

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